

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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R 300014Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8047

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3139

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: REFERENCE TO TEXTILES

AUTHORITY ON CERTAIN YARNS AND TEXTILE PRODUCTS.

REF: A. 75 CANBERRA 3701 B. 75 CANBERRA A-204

1. ON APRIL 23, MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
FORWARDED REFERENCE TO TEXTILES AUTHORITY (TA) FOR ADVICE  
ON ACTION TO BE TAKEN RESPECTING IMPORTS OF COTTON BED  
SHEETING, BED LINEN, KNITTED OR CROCHETED NET FABRICS AND  
CURTAINS. THESE GOODS ARE CURRENTLY SUBJECT TO TARIFF  
QUOTAS INTRODUCED JUNE 6, 1975 (SEE REF A) WHICH EXPIRE  
JUNE 5, 1976. TA IS REQUIRED TO PRESENT ITS REPORT AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS BY JUNE 22, 1976.

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2. SPECIFICALLY, THE TA HAS BEEN ASKED TO MAKE RECOMMEN-

DATIONS ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. WHETHER ABSENCE OF TARIFF QUOTAS WOULD CAUSE MARKET DISRUPTION AS DESCRIBED IN GATT.  
B. IF EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA WOULD THREATEN MARKET DISRUPTION IN TERMS OF GATT, SHOULD RESTRAINT MEASURES BE NEGOTIATED AND AT WHAT LEVEL.

3. IN A PRESS STATEMENT ACCOMPANYING REFERENCE, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE SAID THAT "IF THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON THE AUTHORITY'S RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER THIS REFERENCE RESULTED IN THE CONTINUATION OF TARIFF QUOTAS ON ANY OR ALL OF THE PRODUCTS CONCERNED, INDIVIDUAL IMPORTERS COULD BE ASSURED THAT INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS IN THE SECOND YEAR WOULD BE NO LESS THAN THE QUOTAS THEY WERE ALLOCATED IN THE FIRST YEAR WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THEIR IMPORT PERFORMANCE IN THE APPROPRIATE BASE PERIOD."

4. IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS HAD FORWARDED TWO NEW REFERENCES ON TEXTILE PRODUCTS TO THE INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION. THESE REPLACE EARLIER REFERENCES (SEE REF B) AND WIDEN THE SCOPE OF GOODS TO BE COVERED BY THE IAC INVESTIGATION. GOODS INCLUDED ARE: POLYESTER SHEETING AND ALL TYPES OF BLANKETS AND RUGS, POLYOLEFIN FABRICS AND KNITTED BAGS AND SACKS.

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE

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